

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1501

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development, &
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development, &
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member Quigley:

As you craft the fiscal year 2024 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$1,000,000 in community project funding for the construction of the Four Mounds Foundation Workforce Training Center. The entity receiving the funding for this project is Four Mounds Foundation, located at 4900 Peru Road, Dubuque, IA 52001.

If awarded, this funding would aid in the construction of a workforce training center to facilitate a woodshop and classrooms to meet a critical community need for expanded job training and education space through the Four Mounds Foundation's Housing Education and Rehabilitation Training (HEART) Building Dubuque Program. The HEART Program has served the Dubuque, Iowa, community for more than 20 years through hands-on job training and home renovation projects in low-income neighborhoods.

The HEART Program addresses local workforce needs and provides accessible, paid training to at-risk adults and adults with barriers to employment. More than half of the participants in the program are living in poverty, and over 40 percent have a criminal background. The HEART Program also addresses the cycles that contribute to unemployment and poverty by providing transportation, connection to child care, the purchase of materials and clothing, and personal development and financial literacy mentoring. Through this innovative and personalized program model, students in the HEART program experience a 92 percent graduation rate. Further, average annual student income coming into the program is \$13,000; upon job placement, average annual student income starts at \$38,000.

This program has dynamic and robust community partnerships and support. It not only gives individuals the tools they need to succeed in the workforce, but also assists in re-developing low-

expand their services beyond the 50 adults they already serve annually, bringing new livelihoods and hope to the community.

I strongly urge the Committee to include this community project funding request in the FY24 transportation, Housing and Urban Development, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill. I appreciate your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,



Ashley Hinson

Member of Congress

Committee on Appropriations